United States Department of Agriculture
Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration
Federal Grain Inspection Service

Program Notice

FGIS PN-08-08 05-22-08

SAMPLE COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR VERIFYING THE ACCURACY OF MOISTURE METER CALIBRATIONS CROP YEAR 2008

1. PURPOSE

This program notice transmits collection assignments for samples needed to verify the accuracy of official moisture meter calibrations. It also restates the procedure for collecting and submitting samples.

2. BACKGROUND

The annual Moisture Meter Calibration Study is conducted on current year crop samples to assess the accuracy of the official inspection system and of NTEP-certified moisture meters. The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) moisture meter calibrations must be verified over the working moisture ranges, significant production areas, and relevant crop years. Each year, the evaluation is performed on samples submitted to the Quality Systems and Services Unit (QSS) from the field offices. After moisture testing, the samples are made available to other programs in the Technical Services Division (TSD).

Sample collection assignments for the respective offices are based on crop production within the geographic areas of responsibility. In some cases, additional assignments in the stable moisture ranges are given to export locations. Also, the quotas for corn, soybean and Hard Red Winter wheat are increased slightly to provide enough samples for the NTEP testing program.

It is understood that all requested moisture levels may not be available in all areas every year. Since a wide moisture range is very important to the study, field offices should make all reasonable efforts to provide the requested number of samples in each moisture range. However, extraordinary actions are not expected.

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This program notice is effective upon receipt for the 2008 crop production. Wheat samples should be submitted by September 15, sunflower samples by November 15, and all other grain samples by November 1, 2008.

4. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This program notice supersedes FGIS PN 07-06, dated May 15, 2007.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The collection and submission of samples for the annual Moisture Meter Calibration Study are considered regular duties of the selected field offices. All associated time will be charged to the field office standardization management code.

6. ASSIGNMENTS FOR SELECTED FIELD OFFICES

During the 2008 growing season, the indicated numbers of samples of the commodities listed in Table 1 (Attachment 2) must be collected, tested for moisture, and submitted by the respective field offices to TSD-QSS. Each sample should weigh approximately 1500 grams.

7. INSTRUCTIONS

a. The purpose of this effort is to obtain representative samples from the entire nation. Therefore, it is important to have each office fill its quota at all moisture levels, if possible. However, do not submit extra samples in any moisture range, and do not adjust the moisture level of samples by adding water or by drying in the laboratory.

b. Samples with moisture levels slightly beyond the established moisture ranges are useful in calibrating the extreme ends of the calibrations and extending the measurement ranges. For this reason, the ranges of requested samples (Table 1) have been extended slightly beyond established limits. When submitting samples, if the moisture falls outside the range of the applicable GAC 2100 calibration, obtain approximate moisture. The true moisture will later be determined at TSD by air oven.

c. If dockage is removed for inspection purposes, do not recombine it before submitting the sample.

d. The significant amount of time and effort invested in collecting and submitting the moisture samples can easily be lost through insect damage, microbial spoilage, or late sample submission. To prevent such loss, please collect the samples during the growing season and at harvest time and submit them promptly.

Samples above 16% (above 14% for sunflower seeds and 11% for minor oilseeds) require special handling. To minimize loss by spoilage, keep high moisture samples refrigerated (not frozen) until shipped and ship the samples by Federal Express at least 48 hours before a weekend/holiday.

e. An easy way to account for samples submitted is to prepare mailing tags for the total number of samples of each commodity to be collected. On the back of each tag, write the commodity and moisture range. When all of the mailing tags are used, the collection assignment has been met.

f. Most dielectric moisture meters have a built-in test weight correction. These corrections need to be checked using external test weight data. For samples of sufficient volume, test weight will be determined by TSD-QSS, so it is not necessary to record test weight on the mailing tag. However, some submitted samples are too small to fill the kettle. For such samples, please record the test weight on the tag (or transmittal slip) if it is known.

g. Questions concerning these instructions should be directed to Patricia Jackson (816) 891-0450. If there is a special problem with a sample assignment, please notify the Moisture Laboratory, TSD-QSS, by telephone as early in the season as possible.

h. Seal each sample in a polyethylene bag (6 mil thickness) and insert the bag into a canvas grain bag. When shipping several samples in a larger container (box or mail sack), a canvas grain bag around each poly bag will help prevent the poly bags from breaking in transit. Record the field office location, date, commodity, official meter moisture, and test weight (if sample size is limited) on the back of the mailing tag or transmittal form (Attachment 1) accompanying the sample. Attach the mailing tag to the bag. Send samples to:

USDA-GIPSA-FGIS Technical Center
Technical Services Division
Moisture Laboratory
10383 N. Ambassador Drive
Kansas City, MO 64153-1394

/s/ John Giler

John Giler, Director
Field Management Division
Attachments

Moisture Sample Transmittal Form

Field Office Use Only:

OFFICE _____ MOISTURE _____

DATE _____ TEST WT. _____

COMMODITY _____

ISE Use Only: *Date Received*

Moisture Sample Transmittal Form

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OFFICE _____ MOISTURE _____

DATE _____ TEST WT. _____

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DATE _____ TEST WT. _____

COMMODITY _____

ISE Use Only: *Date Received*

Table 1. Sample collection assignments, 2008 Crop Year

1. Barley, Six-Rowed		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	7-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	California	2	2	2	1	7
	Grand Forks	5	6	3	2	16
	Moscow	3	3	3	1	10
	Toledo	3	4	3	2	12
	Wichita	7	8	6	4	25

2. Barley, Two-Rowed		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	7-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	Grand Forks	1	3	1	0	5
	Moscow	12	13	9	6	40
	Washington	6	7	5	2	20
	Wichita	1	3	1	0	5

3. Corn		Moisture Range (%)						
	Office	7-11	11-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-31	All
	Cedar Rapids	14	19	19	15	11	10	88
	Grand Forks	5	6	5	4	2	2	24
	League City	2	2	1	0	0	0	5
	New Orleans	2	2	1	0	0	0	5
	Stuttgart	4	7	6	4	2	2	25
	Toledo	12	12	13	10	8	5	60
	Wichita	14	19	19	15	11	10	88

4. Oats		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	7-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	Cedar Rapids	7	7	5	1	20
	Grand Forks	4	5	2	1	12
	Toledo	7	9	5	2	23
	Wichita	8	9	6	2	25

5. Rough Rice, Long Grain

Office	Moisture Range (%) 7-11	11-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	All
League City	1	1	0	0	0	2
New Orleans	8	9	8	7	6	38
Stuttgart	10	12	10	10	8	50

6. Rough Rice, Medium Grain

Office	Moisture Range (%) 7-11	11-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	All
California	11	13	12	11	9	56
New Orleans	1	2	1	1	0	5
Stuttgart	7	8	6	4	4	29

7. Sorghum

Office	Moisture Range (%) 7-11	11-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	All
League City	2	4	2	1	1	10
New Orleans	2	4	2	1	1	10
Stuttgart	2	4	2	1	1	10
Wichita	11	13	11	7	3	45

8. Soybeans

Office	Moisture Range (%) 7-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
Cedar Rapids	11	12	11	6	40
Grand Forks	4	5	4	2	15
New Orleans	3	4	2	1	10
Stuttgart	10	11	9	5	35
Toledo	16	17	14	8	55
Wichita	19	21	17	8	65

9. Sunflower Seed, Oil Type

Office	Moisture Range (%) 4-7	7-10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	All
Grand Forks	9	12	10	8	6	5	50
Wichita	13	17	17	16	10	7	80

10. Wheat, Durum		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	6-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	California	4	4	3	1	12
	Grand Forks	5	7	5	3	20
	Moscow	4	6	4	1	15
	Wichita	7	8	6	2	23

11. Wheat, Hard Red Spring		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	6-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	Grand Forks	5	7	6	2	20
	Moscow	5	6	5	2	18
	Washington	3	3	3	0	9
	Wichita	8	9	8	4	29

12. Wheat, Hard Red Winter		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	7-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	California	3	4	2	1	10
	League City	3	3	2	0	8
	Moscow	3	4	3	1	11
	Wichita	17	19	15	10	61

13. Wheat, Hard White		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	6-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	California	5	6	3	1	15
	Moscow	6	7	5	2	20
	Washington	2	2	1	0	5
	Wichita	9	11	7	3	30

14. Wheat, Soft Red Winter		Moisture Range (%)				
	Office	6-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	Cedar Rapids	2	2	1	0	5
	New Orleans	2	3	3		8
	Stuttgart	5	6	4	2	17
	Toledo	6	7	6	4	23
	Wichita	5	6	4	2	17

15. Wheat, Soft White	Office	Moisture Range (%) 7-11	11-14	14-17	17-21	All
	Moscow	8	10	7	3	28
	Toledo	4	4	3	1	12
	Washington	8	10	8	4	30

The majority of the following requested samples should reflect typical market moisture ranges. When available, one or two samples of each grain or commodity, outside the typical range, would be beneficial to the moisture calibration program. The samples should represent diverse growing conditions.

16. Beans, Black	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Toledo	5
	Wichita	5

17. Beans, Blackeye	Office	Number of Samples
	California	10
	Wichita	10

18. Beans, Cranberry	Office	Number of Samples
	California	10
	Toledo	10
	Wichita	10

19. Beans, Garbanzo	Office	Number of Samples
	California	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Washington	5
	Wichita	5

20. Beans, Great Northern	Office	Number of Samples
	Moscow	10
	Wichita	10

21. Beans, Kidney (Light and Dark)	Office	Number of Samples
	California	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Toledo	5
	Wichita	5

22. Beans, Baby Lima	Office	Number of Samples
	California	10

23. Beans, Large Lima	Office	Number of Samples
	California	10

24. Beans, Pea (Navy)	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	10
	Toledo	10
	Wichita	10

25. Beans, Pink	Office	Number of Samples
	California	5
	Duluth	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Washington	5
	Wichita	5

26. Beans, Pinto	Office	Number of Samples
	California	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Wichita	5

27. Beans, Small Red	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Toledo	5
	Washington	5
	Wichita	5

28. Canola	Office	Number of Samples
	Duluth	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Washington	5
	Wichita	5

29. Flaxseed	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	10
	Wichita	10

30. Lentils	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Washington	5
	Wichita	5

31. Mustard Seed, Yellow	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	10
	Moscow	10

32. Peas, Smooth Dry	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	10
	Moscow	10
	Washington	10

33. Rice, Short Grain Rough	Office	Number of Samples
	California	10

34. Rye	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	5
	Toledo	5
	Wichita	5

35. Safflower Seed	Office	Number of Samples
	California	5
	Grand Forks	5
	Moscow	5
	Wichita	5

36. Sunflower Seed, Confectionary	Office	Number of Samples
	Grand Forks	10
	Wichita	10

37. Rice, Long Grain Brown

Office	Moisture Range (%) 10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-20	All
League City	3	3	3	3	3	15
New Orleans	3	3	3	3	3	15
Stuttgart	3	3	3	3	3	15

38. Rice, Long Grain Milled

Office	Moisture Range (%) 10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-20	All
League City	3	3	3	3	3	15
New Orleans	3	3	3	3	3	15
Stuttgart	3	3	3	3	3	15

39. Rice, Medium Grain Brown

Office	Moisture Range (%) 10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-20	All
League City	3	3	3	3	3	15
New Orleans	3	3	3	3	3	15
California	3	3	3	3	3	15
Stuttgart	3	3	3	3	3	15

40. Rice, Medium Grain Milled

Office	Moisture Range (%) 10-12	12-14	14-16	16-18	18-20	All
League City	3	3	3	3	3	15
New Orleans	3	3	3	3	3	15
California	3	3	3	3	3	15
Stuttgart	3	3	3	3	3	15